

GETTING THE NEWS AFTER GETTING THE NEWS

like a soldier
in the Falklands
stepping on an
invisible mine,
both feet torn
from his body
48 hours after
the cease fire

SARAJEVO

Himzo Babic
roams thru blasted
stores looking for
cardboard to burn
in his 12th floor
apartment so his
18-month-old infant
would not freeze
to death. Without a
saw or axe to forage
for fuel, it's easier
to collect cardboard,
to burn anything
loose around him.
"I have burned most
of my furniture,"
he said, "the wood
parquet of my
floor. And, harder,
I've burned my books."

SOMEWHERE BEHIND MIDNIGHT

an old lady
with palsy
bedridden is
burned to
death only
the still
smoldering
flesh of
her belly
remains

SISTER OF THE PACK RAT

we've lived together
38 years she's slept
8 years on the couch
her bedroom a pile
of newspapers junk
mail magazines we
even moved to a
house with bigger
closets but they
filled up all the
drawers are bulging
the food closets have
cans spilling out I
could call the depart
ment of health I
packed papers and sheets
up once filled baskets
big enough for a
Sears dryer but she
filled it all again
I'll stay if she
cleans up or I could
just leave, get married